

INDUSTRY INSIGHTS

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PIA Has Positive Impact on California Economy

UC Berkeley Study Reports Benefit to Golden State

By TOMMY HUBBS

The California Prison Industry Authority has a positive ripple effect on California's economy, according to a UC Berkeley study released in May.

The products and services produced by PIA inmates accounted for \$151 million in sales in 1997-1998, which led to spin-off effects of \$230.1 million in total sales. Statewide, 3,000 jobs were connected to purchases made by PIA.

"People don't usually connect positive economic impacts with inmates, but this report shows how much the prison industry contributes to the state economy," said George Goldman, a cooperative extension economist at the Department of Agricultural & Resource Economics at UC Berkeley's College of Natural Resources.

"When the PIA purchases wood to make furniture or grain to feed the chickens on a farm, it has the ripple effect of generating sales, jobs, and income in other industries in California," added Goldman, who used records of PIA farm and factory operational expenses in his calculations. The report was co-authored by senior statistician Vijay Pradhan.

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Mark Stewart Honored

CDC recognized Mark Stewart, Prison Industries Manager, Central Office, for his role in coming to the aid of an ailing Folsom convenience store manager.

Stewart received a commendation letter from CDC Director Edward S. Alameida, Jr. for assisting the store manager. The manager passed out twice after striking his head while working in the store's back storage area.

Stewart assisted by positioning the manager on the floor to provide a clear airway and was preparing to perform CPR when the man regained consciousness. Stewart also directed another patron to call 911. The man was transported to an area hospital. He has since recovered.

Stewart was recognized for taking immediate, potentially life-saving action.



Ship 'Comes in' for PIA Inmates at RJD

Ship Builder Looks at Parolees to Meet Hiring Needs

By TOMMY HUBBS

Aiming to further increase employment opportunities for inmates upon parole, the R. J. Donovan Correctional Facility (RJD) and a major shipbuilding company have agreed to an employment program that will benefit PIA inmates.

A program has been created with San Diego-based National Steel and Shipbuilding Company (NASSCO) which will include pre-screening paroling PIA inmate workers for potential jobs with the firm.

The plan calls for PIA staff to distribute program information program to inmate workers who will be notified of NASSCO's criteria: applicable skills,

experience, attendance, attitude, grade point average, and parole within 90 days. Inmates interested will then go through a screening and interview process and be required to submit two letters of recommendation.

Inmates who have passed all criteria and are considered good candidates, will be scheduled for job interviews based on the shipbuilders hiring needs.

NASSCO operates the largest new-construction shipyard on the West Coast, designing, building and repairing large, ocean-bound military and commercial ships and is the key repair facility for the Navy's Pacific Fleet.

PIA and RJD have also teamed

with the California Department of Corrections' Offenders Employment Continuum Program (OEC). OEC and PIA have agreed to provide PIA inmate workers with 40 hours of pre-employment workshops, to include a job search linking an inmate's values and transferable skills with a prospective employer. Once an inmate is released from the prison, OEC will provide job placement and special assistance in acquiring housing, food, clothing and transportation for 180 days.

The OEC program was authorized by CDC in 1999 to provide a stronger transitional assistance to individuals released

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Business Services Section Participates in Disabled Veterans Trade Conference



PIA’s Business Services Section participated in the 10th Annual “Keeping the Promise” Trade Show and Awards Ceremony at the Sacramento Convention Center in May. Presented by the California Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise Alliance, the ceremony brought disabled veteran business owners, prospective entrepreneurs, prime contractors and state agencies together. Pictured (l to r): PIA’s Hope Boone and Mary Roa; Director of the Governor’s Office of the Small Business Advocate Sonya Kay Blake; Manager of the Department of General Services’ DVBE Outreach and Education Unit Joe Barajas, and PIA’s Doug Turner.

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Ship Building Jobs

from prison. Currently the employable skills and work ethics of PIA inmates are documented and evaluated before being transferred to a parole agent. The new plan at RJD will carry that process a step further.

“We are moving in the right direction

to make inmate employability a reality,” said Guru Halappa, Prison Industries Administrator at RJD. “The Warden, Education, and OEC are uncompromising in their support and cooperation.”

PIA operates five enterprises at RJD including an optical laboratory, bakery, laundry, textile mill and casual shoe factory along with support by Maintenance & Repair and a warehouse.



Bindery Operation Serves Many Markets

CSP-Solano’s Bindery operation produces a wide array of products including 3-ring binders, diploma covers, mesh construction signs, flags for Caltrans, and disabled parking placards for DMV. Solano’s Bindery staff include (pictured l to r): Paul Branaman, Industrial Supervisor; Jerry Pace, Industrial Superintendent I and John Schneidt, Industrial Supervisor.

UCB Report

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The new study expanded on a similar analysis of PIA released in 1998. This time it examined specific impacts on eight economic regions in the State. PIA’s largest impact was on the San Joaquin Valley, with more than \$49.5 million in sales and 812 jobs generated. Agricultural products, including eggs, milk, and almonds represented the largest category of goods produced and sold in the region. Southern California had a combined impact of \$24.5 million in total sales and 352 jobs. The Bay Area region saw \$13.6 million in sales and 200 jobs.

“The products and services go far beyond license plates,” George Goldman, UC Berkeley Economist.

The Northern California region, which includes the counties of Del Norte, Humboldt, Mendocino, and Trinity, saw a combined impact of \$2.7 million in total sales and 58 jobs. The economic effect tends to be greater in the San Joaquin Valley due to the relatively high concentration of prisons in the region that have PIA enterprises.

“The PIA benefits California by keeping money in the state,” said Goldman, who noted many of the products manufactured by PIA would otherwise come from out-of-state regions. “This is particularly true for metal, wood and paper products, which would likely come from the Midwest states if the PIA were not manufacturing them here,” he said.

In terms of sales, PIA is the largest state prison work program in the country. PIA operates more than 65 service, manufacturing, and agricultural enterprises at 23 prisons throughout the State. Seven thousand inmates produce over 1,800 goods and services including office furniture, clothing, food products, shoes, printing services, signs, binders, eye wear, gloves, license plates, cell equipment, and much more.

“The products and services go far beyond license plates,” said Goldman.